

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It should be noted that, in the present After Final amendment, the claims as amended are presented herewith to overcome the rejections set forth in the last Office action and thereby place the application in condition for allowance. The claims as amended do not include any new matter, nor do they raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. The present amendment does not present additional claims without canceling any finally rejected claims, and so the present amendment materially reduces the issues to place the application in better condition for appeal. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

THE INVENTION

As currently amended, the present independent claims recite a card game for two or more players, where the card game includes at least two decks of cards, one for each player. Each deck includes a plurality of cards including a plurality of battle cards having attack power and defense power indicated thereon, a plurality of effect indication cards having an effect indicated thereon that is brought into play when used, and a plurality of cost payment cards to be used for cost payment. The plurality of the battle cards and/or the plurality of the effect indication cards have an

indication of additional attack power thereon.

As presently amended, independent claim 1 and 6 require that each of the cost payment cards has a symbol thereon indicating that each card belongs to one of a plurality of category groups. Also, the plurality of the battle cards have one or more these symbols thereon indicating cost required to place the battle card on a play field. These limitations had previously been presented in dependent claims 4 and 7, now cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that the structure recited in independent claims 1 and 6, as presently amended, is different from the prior art relied on by the Examiner.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-13 had been rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Braunlich et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly as applied to the claims as presently amended.

In the previously-submitted First Action, the Examiner had associated Braunlich et al.'s "character cards 100" with the present "battle cards." Also, the Examiner had associated Braunlich et al.'s "location cards 300" with the present "cost payment cards 300." It is noted that the "character cards 100" include various indicia, including "deck building dots 101," "character picture 102," "character name 104," "descriptive window 106," "damage number 108," "power consumption indicator 110," "power number 112," "counters 114," "stacking indicator 116," "mass indicator 117," "expansion set icon 122" and "rarity icon 124." Further to the above, it is noted that Braunlich et al.'s "location cards 300" include various indicia, including

"deck building dots 301," "location picture 302," "location name 304," "descriptive window 306," "chance number 318," "card number 320," and "expansion set icon 322."

As explained by the Examiner in the First Action, "only the claimed elements having physical structure are given patentable weight." It is therefore respectfully submitted that Braunlich et al. fails to show a plurality of "cost payment cards" or "location cards" having a symbol thereon indicating that each card belongs to one of a plurality of category groups. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Braunlich et al. fails to disclose a plurality of "battle cards" or "character cards" having one or more symbols thereon indicating cost required to place the battle card on a play field. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended recite structure that is not shown in the Braunlich et al. reference. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Braunlich et al. fails to meet the requirements of anticipation as required by Section 102. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these prior art rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 8 and 12 are presently pending. While the dependent claims recite limitations also not shown by the prior art, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims 1 and 6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is also respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned to expedite prosecution

of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. NIS-14976.

Respectfully submitted,

RANKIN, HILL, PORTER & CLARK LLP

By 

Jay P. Ryan
Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 37,064

4080 Erie Street
Willoughby, Ohio 44094-7836
(216) 566-9700